



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

California's State Organic Program

California is the only state
with its own organic program.

Organic agriculture in California accounts for more than 20 percent of all organic production in the nation. Our State Organic Program (SOP) registers organic producers, handlers, processors, wholesalers and brokers, as well as retail stores that process products on-site.

- The California Organic Foods Act of 1990 (COFA) established standards for organic food production and sales in California, and the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (OFPA) authorized USDA to establish the National Organic Program (NOP).
- After COFA and OFPA, the NOP fully implemented federal organic regulations in 2002. The California Organic Products Act of 2003 (COPA) revised the COFA to be interpreted and applied in conjunction with the NOP standards and regulations.

- Organic producers, handlers, processors, retail stores that process products on-site, wholesalers, and brokers of organic products, register with the California Department of Food and Agriculture State Organic Program (SOP).
- The SOP verifies registrants' compliance with the organic program from production to the point of sale.
- Under the SOP, CDFA contracts with 53 County Agricultural Commissioner's (CACs) for enforcement and compliance activities.

Steady Growth: TOTAL REGISTRANTS IN CALIFORNIA'S SOP



Snapshot: NEW REGISTRANTS IN FISCAL YEAR 2013/14

2013		2014	
July	46	January	30
August	50	February	46
September	28	March	36
October	27	April	63
November	17	May	64
December	16	June	53

The State Organic Program helps ensure that California families are consuming agricultural products that meet state and federal organic standards.

- The SOP is responsible for handling complaints against organic operations operating in California.
- The SOP works in conjunction with the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), for additional enforcement and compliance activities.
- CDFA collaborates with 28 USDA Accredited Certifying Agencies (ACAs) operating in the California, for enforcement activities.
- Through the federal Cost Share Program, CDFA distributes funds from the USDA; to operations that have been certified organic by a USDA accredited certifier. For the 2013/14 federal fiscal year (October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2014), CDFA reimbursed a total of \$1,407,628 to 1,844 certified organic operations.
- The total number of registered organic operations continues to grow. From 2009 to 2014 the total number of registered organic operations increased by 20 percent.

DID YOU KNOW?

Follow the Money

WHERE DO ORGANIC REGISTRATION FEES GO?

- › Performed 1,016 inspections of organic operations including production sites, handling facilities, farmers' markets, retail stores and roadside stands
- › Collected 200 samples (400 lbs) for pesticide residue analysis
- › Conducted 85 complaint investigations
- › Processed appeals and provide due process
- › Facilitated the sale of organic products

(2014 data)

- There were 476 new organic registrants for the 2013/2014 fiscal year.
- Veterans are exempt from paying registration fees.
- The SOP also benefits the public. By working to confirm products being sold are organic, the SOP is helping ensure that families are consuming agricultural products that meet state and federal organic standards.

Alemany Certified Farmers' Market, San Francisco

